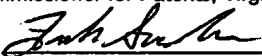


PATENT

Docket No. 1999CON2 (203-2526CON2)

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Virginia 22313-1450 on October 7, 2003.

By:  Date: October 7, 2003
Francesco Sardone

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : WAYNE C. PERSON
TITLE : **SURGICAL INSTRUMENT HOLDER**
SERIAL NO. : 10/647,950
FILED : August 26, 2003
PARENT
EXAMINER : Jeffrey A. Smith
PARENT
ART UNIT : 3732
October 7, 2003

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP: Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on Page 2 of the paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of the paper.